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Mr. Skrine sets forth, in clear light, the forces that have been in play to build up the vast dominion of Russia and to produce the social and political conditions which now exist. While he counts autocracy as the most potent factor in the development of the empire, he, of course, includes geographical environment as among the determining influences. He shows the isolation which for generations cut Russia off from the currents of modern life, depicts the Caucasus as the lofty chain that long called a halt in the migration of the human race westward, and describes the distribution of resources. The maps show the lines of Russian advance in the Caucasus and Central Asia, and the Balkan Peninsula and the Russian Empire of 1900. The topic is a large one; but it is condensed with lucidity, and is a vivid account of the influences and events that have been shaping the history of Russia.

Der Paraguay-Tee (Yerba Mate). By Prof. Dr. F. W. Neger and Dr. L. Vanino. 56 pp., 22 illustrations, and a Bibliography. Fr. Grub. Stuttgart, 1903. Price (paper), 2 m.

This is a scientific study of a plant that, for unknown ages, has been used in the decoction of a beverage somewhat resembling Chinese tea. Its use is very widely spread in South America. The authors say that the Spanish name of the plant is Yerba Mate, not Maté, as it is commonly written. Proof has been found that the plant was in use in the days of the Peruvian Incas, probably 1,000 years ago. The beverage is now found in every house or hut in the southeast quarter of South America, and merchants are trying to introduce it into Europe, and particularly into Germany. The book gives the history of the plant as far as it is known, describes the different varieties, devotes a chapter to its chemistry, treats of the methods of collecting and cultivating it, establishes its growing importance as a commercial product, and concludes with a bibliography. It is an able, authoritative, and interesting treatment of this important economic plant.

Uganda. By Julius Richter. vii and 268 pp. C. Bertelsmann. Gütersloh, 1893. (Price, 3 marks.)

This is a German contribution to the history of evangelical missions and colonial policy in Central Africa. It tells the story of Uganda and its kings and people and then takes up the history of the missions from the time of Stanley's famous appeal through subsequent days of sunshine, anxiety, and tragedy to 1892. The book summarizes for German readers some of the most remarkable and finally fruitful of missionary enterprises.